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1. By 14 July 1950 the Afghan Trade Mission, which had been in Moscow since April, had not reached final agreement with the Soviets over the Barter Trade Agreement which they were negotiating.*
2. An official of the Afghan Ministry of National Economy, who is handling all the queries which are being referred back to Kabul, stated that the Mission would probably return to Kabul in early August.**
3. The same official stated that in the barter agreement which he hoped would finally be signed, Afghan raw materials such as wool and skins would have to be supplied by private companies. He also said that the delay in the negotiations was partly caused by the fact that questions concerning prices had continually to be referred to the companies concerned by the Ministry of Economy.
4. During the weeks preceeding 14 July, several points raised in communications from the Mission in Moscow had been referred to the Afghan Cabinet.

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* Comment. Two previous Afghan-Soviet Barter Trade Agreements were signed in Kabul. The first, on 5 November 1947, provided for 5,583 metric tons of Afghan wool (value: \$2,624,763) in exchange for 5,500 metric tons of Soviet gasoline for the period ending June 1948. The second, on 14 August 1948, provided for 6,600 metric tons of Afghan wool (value: \$3,259,400) in exchange for 3,000 metric tons of Soviet gasoline for the period ending September 1949. In both cases the USSR was to provide in addition an unspecified amount of cotton piece goods, sugar, kerosene oil, metal, building material, consumer goods, etc.

** Comment. According to a TASS report, the negotiations were concluded by 27 July 1950, at which time the Afghan delegates left Moscow.

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